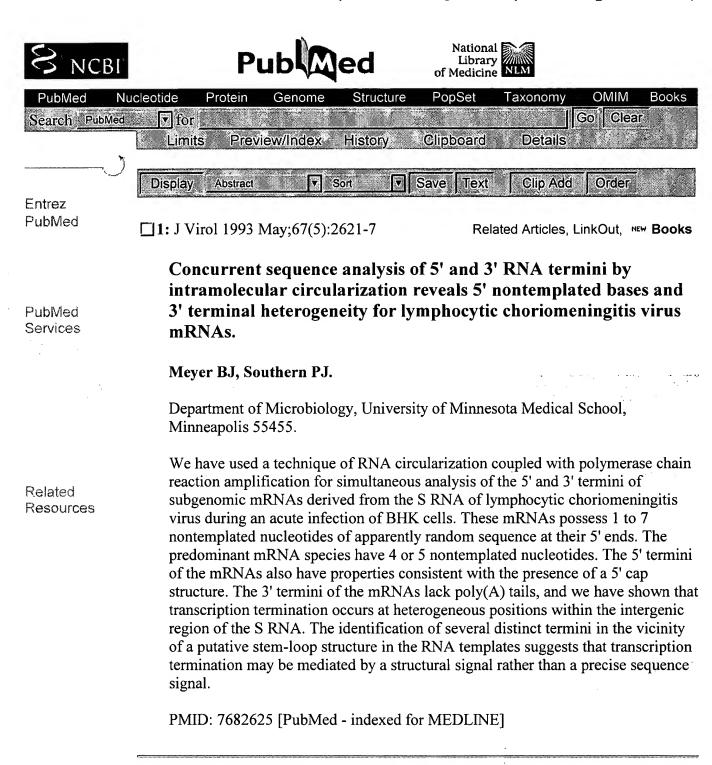


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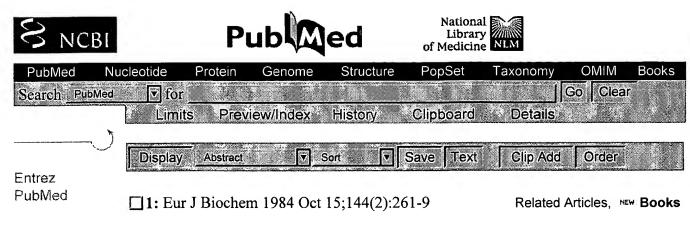
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Yeast mitochondria contain a linear RNA strand complementary to the circular intronic bl1 RNA of cytochrome b.

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Halbreich A, Grandchamp C, Foucher M.

Related Resources bI1 RNA (excised from the first intron of the long form of the cytochrome b gene of Saccharomyces cerevisiae mitochondria) hybridizes with the two strands of a Bg/II-MboI DNA segment from this region. This fraction is resistant to digestions by DNase I and RNase T1 and disappears completely upon alkali hydrolysis. Strand-specific labeling of an intronic DNA fragment, cloned in pBR322 plasmid, was accomplished through the use of a T4 DNA polymerase. The purity of the probes was demonstrated by cloning an exon-intron fragment and labeling it by the same procedure; mRNA and pre-mRNA bands hybridized only with the transcribed DNA strand whereas bl1 RNA hybridized with the two strands under the stringent washing conditions employed (tm + 20 degrees C). Several experimental results argue against the possibility that the observation of two complementary bl1 RNA strands results from a partial self-complementarity of the RNA. A pre-mRNA intermediate from a box8 (G5046) mutant, still containing this intron, hybridizes only with the transcribed DNA strand of the pure intronic probe. The amount of the non-sense bl1 RNA strand is very low, in cells from two wild-type strains, relative to the sense RNA strand during the early stages of growth on glucose. It increases as the cells are released from glucose repression. bl1 RNA is resistant to RNase. Very little self-complementarity is seen by computer analysis of the sequence. Purified bl1 RNA is seen by electron microscopy under non-denaturing conditions as a mixture of double-stranded circular and linear molecules thus confirming the existence of the two complementary strands. The disappearance of all material following alkali hydrolysis demonstrates that these are indeed two RNA strands. Under fully denaturing conditions a mixture of single-stranded circular and linear molecules is seen as reported previously (Cell, 19, 321-329, 1980). We conclude that yeast mitochondria contain the two complementary bI1 RNA strands, one circular and the other linear. Considering a largely asymmetrical transcription of the mitochondrial genome in yeast and assuming that circularization of some intronic RNAs is part of RNA processing, we do not believe that the two strands are each a mixture of linear and circular molecules. The ratio of non-sense to sense bl1 RNA in a cytoplasmic petite mutant, A1B1, also varies according to growth conditions.(ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 400 WORDS)